



Coming Together for Kids-A-Part: A Summit on Children with a Parent in Prison

September 24
Killington Grand Hotel

This conference is for anyone who....

- Has a family member who has been affected by incarceration
- Works with children and families impacted by incarceration
- Is concerned about the impact of incarceration on children and communities

Objectives of the conference are to:

- Highlight the continuum of needs for children of all ages affected by parental incarceration
- Dispel myths about families experiencing incarceration
- Give voice to the strengths and unique needs of children and families affected by incarceration
- Build empathy and understanding about the stigma and shame felt by all affected
- Increase knowledge of supports available for children, caregivers, and parents
- Offer ways to promote healing within families and communities
- Develop skills in working with children and families
- Build collaboration between departments and community partners to address the complex and sometimes conflicting needs of children and families.
- Mobilize communities to respond effectively and efficiently at an individual and system level

Featured Speakers

Patricia Allard

Rebecca Foundation for Human Rights

Ann Adalist-Estrin

National Resource Center on Children and Families of Incarcerated

Sandra Barnhill

Aid to Children of Imprisoned Mothers

Nell Bernstein

San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership

Chesa Boudin

National Advocate & Adult Who Experienced Parental Incarceration

Kathy Boudin

Formerly Incarcerated Mother and Co-Founder of a Program on Parenting Behind Bars

Emani Davis

Child Advocate & Adult Who Experienced Parental Incarceration

Elizabeth Gaynes

Osborne Association

Dee Ann Newell

Soros Foundation's Open Society Institute

The conference is offered free of charge to the first 250 registrants who work or live in Vermont

To register click on the link below

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=9u70Eyxz4nn_2fExuhzYFoEQ_3d_3d

Registration deadline is September 14

Schedule

8:00 – 9:00	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome—Steve Dale, Commissioner, Department for Children and Families
9:30 – 10:15	Overview Children's Bill of Rights – Nell Bernstein
10:15 – 10:30	Break
10:30 – 12:00	Panel Discussion – Introduced by Dee Ann Newell
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch & Regional Discussions
1:00 – 2:30	Workshop Session I
2:30 – 2:45	Break
2:45 – 4:15	Workshop Session II
4:30 – 5:30	Regional strategic planning sessions

Children of Parents in Prison Bill of Rights

In 2000, a group of people who were concerned about children with parent in prison formulated the Children's Bill of Rights. The rights are based on what children say they need. This conference is built around creating a shared understanding of the Bill of Rights with a goal of building commitment to meet the needs of children in Vermont who have a parent in prison.

I have the right to be
kept safe and informed at the time of my parents' arrest.

I have the right to be
heard when decisions are made about me.

I have the right to be
considered when decisions are made about my parent.

I have the right to be
well cared for in my parent's absence.

I have the right to
speak with, see and touch my parent.

I have the right to
support as I struggle with my parent's imprisonment.

I have the right to
not be judged, blamed or labeled because I have a parent in prison.

I have the right to
a lifelong relationship with my parent.

Workshops

Session I

A. The Distance Incarceration Creates: A Child's Perspective

Chesa Boudin & Emani Davis

This workshop will provide a glimpse into the impact of parental incarceration on children. Potential challenges of visitation and reunification will be discussed. Best practices for working with children will be highlighted. Participants will have the opportunity to explore ways to use the Bill of Rights as a springboard for public education and system reform.

B. Mothering from Prison

Kathy Boudin

The challenges faced by mothers in prison and their adolescent children can be daunting. Through a lens of real life experience and research, this workshop will highlight the challenges faced by mothers in prison and their adolescent children. Practical suggestions will be shared and information provided about programs inside a correctional facility to support the relationship between mothers and children as well as lessons learned from a peer support program for adolescents.

C. Rights to Realities

Nell Bernstein

In 2005, the San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership launched the Rights to Realities Initiative, with the goal of ensuring that every child in San Francisco whose parent is arrested and/or incarcerated is guaranteed the rights enumerated in the Bill of Rights. Since then, Rights to Realities initiatives have been launched in more than 15 other sites around the country. In this workshop participants will learn and share ideas for making rights into realities. Examples will include developing a collaborative to work on the issue; sparking partnerships; and improving opportunities for families to stay connected when a member is incarcerated. *(repeated in Session II)*

D. Working with Incarcerated Parents and Their Families: Issues, Concerns, and Strategies

Ann Adalist-Estrin

This session will provide information and ideas for responding to the complex and varied needs of families of the incarcerated including: who the children and families are, the impact of the criminal justice system on children and families, and the assumptions, beliefs, and perspectives we bring to the work. The session will also outline ARCH-Attitudes, Relevance, Complexity, and Healing as a framework for interventions. Opportunities to apply these ideas to both program and policy initiatives will be provided.

E. The Role of Communities and Schools in Serving and Advocating for Children of the Incarcerated: The Macro/Micro Practice Model

Dee Ann Newell

The primary macro- and micro-practices that insure the needed support for some children of incarcerated parents and other family members comes from within local communities. This session will describe healthy advocacy practices learned from the multi-state (15) network of the National Campaign for the Bill of Rights under the Soros' Open Society Institute fellowship project of presenter, Dee Ann Newell, and the description of curriculum components for community-based support groups for the children, their parents and family members re-entering the community, and the caregivers of the children will be offered, with an emphasis on strategies and topics for the 2 arenas of services.

F. Opportunities for Improvement: State Obligations to Children in Foster Care and their Incarcerated Parents

Patricia Allard

This workshop will examine the ways in which policy makers, government agency officials, advocates and families can facilitate family reunification between children in foster care and their incarcerated parents. Participants will be introduced to the current legal structure facing families who are enmeshed in both the criminal justice and child welfare systems. Participants will also be presented with numerous opportunities for reform available to pursue in the state of Vermont. *(repeated in Session II)*

G. Engaging Fathers and Caregivers

Elizabeth Gaynes

Using both personal experience and the experience of the first comprehensive parenting program for fathers in a state prison, this workshop will address challenges of engaging fathers and those raising their children in working together to meet the needs of children and families.

H. Taking AIM as an Example

Sandra Barnhill

Using personal and practical experience, this session will explore the development of *Aid to Children of Imprisoned Mothers* and current areas of practice. Emphasis will be placed on what local communities can do to contribute to improved outcomes for children who experience their parent's incarceration and how community and state agencies can work towards shared, common goals.

Session II

A. Sustaining Family Relationships During Incarceration

Chesa Boudin, Emani Davis, Kathy Davis and Elizabeth Gaynes

Come listen to a conversation between two young people with incarcerated parents, a formerly incarcerated mother, and a mother who raised her child during the incarceration of her children's father. The panel will examine issues such as the impact of separation, the process of healing and forgiveness, the struggle between inside and out parents and the conditions that promote or impede the development of relationships.

B. Rights to Realities

Nell Bernstein

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C. The Bill of Rights for Children of the Incarcerated: A Framework for Change

Ann Adalist-Estrin

This session will describe the ways in which the Bill of Rights for Children of the Incarcerated can serve as a framework for providing services and interventions that respond to the needs of the children and their families by examining the need, myths and realities addressed in each of the 8 rights and by offering guidelines for practice, promising strategies and suggestions for policy initiatives. The session will also focus on intervention implications of the Bill of Rights for systems providing services to children and families of the incarcerated such as education, child welfare and health care.

D. Cultural Competency across Systems When Working with Criminal Justice Involved Families

Sandra Barnhill

This session will explore the importance of cultural competency in terms of race, class and gender when working with families affected by incarceration. Practitioner, Caregiver and Parent attitudes will be examined in terms of cultural competency and a framework will be offered to help guide best practice.

E. Our Children: To Be Seen, Heard, and Listened To

Dee Ann Newell

Understanding shame, silence, sorrow and stigma is critical in reaching out to children in a non-judgmental way. This session will emphasize direct communication with children of incarcerated parents, embracing their most frequently asked questions, creating a level of comfort and trust whereby child can express their concerns with a sense of safety.

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http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=9u70Eyxz4nn_2fExuhzYFoEQ_3d_3d

Featured Speakers

Patricia Allard

Patricia E. Allard is the Research Director at the Rebecca Project for Human Rights and a Soros Justice Advocacy Fellow with the Open Society Institute. Ms. Allard's research and advocacy efforts focus on the impact of criminal justice policies on low-income women and women of color. Ms. Allard has worked at the Sentencing Project and the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law School. She is the author of several national reports, including *Life Sentences: Denying Welfare Benefits to Women Convicted of Drug Offenses* (Sentencing Project, 2002) and *Rebuilding Families, Reclaiming Lives: State Obligations to Children in Foster Care and their Incarcerated Parents* (Patricia Allard and Lynn Lu, Brennan Center for Justice, 2006). Ms. Allard is a graduate of Queen's University Law School in Canada (1996) and received her master's in criminology from the Center of Criminology at the University of Toronto (1999).

Ann Adalist-Estrin

Ann Adalist-Estrin is the Director of the National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated and a trainer for the Healthy Steps for Young Children Project at Boston University Medical School. Ann is also a Senior Fellow of the Child Welfare League of America, and a Trainer/ Consultant for the Family and Corrections Network. She is an author, speaker, and consultant to a wide variety of agencies serving children and families in the U.S. and Canada. Her seminar topics span a wide range of interests and ages and are popular with parents and professionals alike. Her work has also included consultations to Professionals in Education, Health Care and Social Services as well as to communities of faith on developing plans for supporting children and families. Ann has been a Child and Family Therapist for 24 years. Her practice is currently at BRIDGES/Samaritan Counseling Centers, Jenkintown, PA.

Sandra Barnhill

Sandra is the Executive Director and Founder of *Aid to Children of Imprisoned Mothers, Inc. (AIM)*. Sandra, a lawyer, founded AIM in 1987. Barnhill is most interested in her work creating opportunities for people from all walks of life. AIM offers after school programs, teen leadership programs, summer camp, tutoring, Saturday [programs, emergency assistance for families, referral services, as well as parenting services in prisons and post-release parenting support services.

Nell Bernstein

While in college, Nell Bernstein began working in a shelter for runaway and homeless teens. She later spent a year as a counselor at a group home for hard-to-place youth in foster care. Those experiences led to a lifelong interest in listening to, and attempting to present to a wider audience, the voices of young people living on the margins. Nell Bernstein's writings have appeared in numerous national publications. Her book, *All Alone in the World: Children of the Incarcerated*, was published by The New Press in October, 2005. It won the PASS Award from the National Council on Crime and delinquency, was selected as a pick of the week by Newsweek Magazine, a best book of the year by the San Francisco Chronicle, and a top ten book of the year by the Online Review of Books. Bernstein has also worked as a consultant to the California Research Bureau, conducting interviews with children of incarcerated parents; exploring the mental health needs of young people in and exiting the foster care and juvenile justice system; and producing and moderating monthly youth panels at the legislature. She currently coordinates the San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership. Bernstein graduated *magna cum laude* with a degree in comparative literature from Yale University. She lives in Albany, California with her husband, artist Timothy B. Buckwalter, and their twins.

Chesa Boudin

Chesa Boudin, a Rhodes Scholar, recently completed his second Masters degree in public policy in Latin America at Oxford University. In 2003 he graduated summa cum laude from Yale University, with honors in the history department, and a Marshall Scholar winner. Chesa has used writing, campus and community organizing, and public speaking to advocate for changes in social and foreign policy. As a leader and founding member of the Student Legal Action Movement at Yale, he has campaigned for improved prison conditions and protection of prisoners' rights in Connecticut State prisons, and around the country. Both of his biological parents were incarcerated when he was 14 months old. His mother was released in 2003; his father is not eligible for parole.

Kathy Boudin

Kathy Boudin has been involved with the issue of mother child relationships across the separation of incarceration for more than 26 years. As an incarcerated mother for 22 years she successfully played a role in parenting her son from prison and developed parenting programs with and for other mothers in the prison. She received her master's degree in adult education while incarcerated and went on to receive her doctoral degree from Columbia University Teachers College in 2007. Her research focused on the conditions that support the positive relationships between mothers in prison and their adolescents and the role of peer support among those teens. Her work both inside and outside of prison include a focus on the HIV/AIDS epidemic-- she currently is employed by an HIV/AIDS clinic; the establishment of educational and support programs for people in prison and their children. She has published in the above fields and is also a published poet.

Emani Davis

Emani Davis has been advocating on behalf of children with parents in prison for 12 years. She is a 2003 graduate of Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY. Her father has been incarcerated in Virginia since she was six years old. Emani has been provided extensive training and technical assistance for programs serving prisoners and children of prisoners. While in college, Emani worked with The Osborne Association as a Family Works Parenting Course Guest Instructor, leading lectures and discussions for incarcerated fathers about the impact of imprisonment on children in Sing Sing, Woodbourne and Shawangunk Correctional Facilities for men in New York State. She also worked supervising the Children's Center in the visiting room at the Sing Sing Correctional Facility. In 2004, together with her mother, Elizabeth Gaynes, she was the first American ever nominated for the prestigious international World's Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child, for their work defending the rights of children with parents in prison. Most recently, she has been working as a youth organizer.

Elizabeth Gaynes

Elizabeth Gaynes is Executive Director of the Osborne Association, a 75-year old nonprofit organization dedicated to serving those affected by incarceration and to developing effective approaches for strengthening families and communities, preventing crime and reducing reliance on incarceration. Under her leadership over the last 22 years, Osborne has grown from a two-person staff to one of the largest multi-service criminal justice organizations in the country, operating in four community sites and 17 prisons and jails. Its 150+ staff members provide family services, job training and placement, prison and reentry services, prevention and treatment programs, and alternatives to incarceration. In 1985, following the incarceration of her children's father, Ms. Gaynes spearheaded the creation of Family Works, the longest running comprehensive parenting program in a men's state prison, and launched some of the nation's first and most innovative services for children with parents in prison, including children's visiting centers at upstate New York prisons. Liz Gaynes is the author of "Reentry: Helping Former Prisoners Return to Communities", a guide published by the Anne E. Casey Foundation (TARC 2006). In 2004, together with her daughter, Emani Davis, she was the first American ever nominated for the prestigious international World's Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child, for their work defending the rights of children with parents in prison.

Dee Ann Newell

Dee Ann Newell is a 16-year practitioner, trainer, advocate, and program developer of services for children left behind, their parents, and their relative caregivers, co-founding in 1994, the statewide non-profit, Arkansas Voices for the Children Left Behind, Inc., the only organization in the state dedicated solely to research, training, services and advocacy for the estimated 50,000 children left behind. She is a 2006 Senior Justice Fellow of the Soros Foundation's Open Society Institute. Her project seeks to reform policies and practices in that will insure the safety of children of the incarcerated, support for their other parent caregiver or relative caregiver, typically a grandparent, and services for their incarcerated parents, with the goal of stabilizing and preserving these families. The project works with 14 partnering coalitions representing 13 states that are seeking to implement the initiatives that underpin the bill of rights for Children of the Incarcerated. She is a graduate of the former Finch College in New York, and received her master's degree in Developmental Psychology from Columbia University, also in New York. The overarching mission of her work is 'Justice for children left behind, to include racial, social, family, economic, and educational justice.' with an emphasis on policy reforms.

Important Information

Registration

To register click on the following link:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=9u70Eyxz4nn_2fExuhzYFoEQ_3d_3d

There is no paper registration for this conference. If you do not have access to the internet or experience problems, call Diane at 802-984-2435.

Free of Charge

Through the generous support of numerous sponsors, the conference is being offered free of charge to the first 250 who register. Participants will only be notified if a free slot is not available; in which case, you will have the option of registering for the conference for a fee of \$50. Out-of-state participants may register for the Conference for a \$50 registration fee. Priority will be given to those who work or live in Vermont.

Cancellations

If you cannot attend the conference you must cancel prior to September 17 or you will be charged \$50 to cover food and material costs. Please honor your commitment or cancel your registration.

Special Needs

The Killington Grand is handicapped accessible, and lunch will include vegetarian options. If you need any special accommodations, please contact us. Sign language interpreters must be requested no later September 1. Contact Diane Robie at 802-948-2435 or email drobie@shoreham.net

Directions

The Killington Grand is located at the junction of Routes 4 and 100 North in Sherburne, 11 miles east of Rutland. From the Killington sign on Route 4, across from Bill's Country Store, drive 3.6 miles up Killington Road. Turn left at the Killington Grand sign and then bear right as you pass the Mountain Inn and Mountain Green. Killington Grand is on the right. Telephone number is 802-422-5001 or toll free 1-888-644-7263.

Questions

Contact Diane Robie, drobie@shoreham.net, 802-948-2435 or Tara Graham, tgraham@vtcas.org, 802-655-0006.

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http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=9u70Eyxz4nn_2fExuhzYFoEQ_3d_3d

Registration Deadline is September 14

For a list of pre and post conference events go to Vermont Children's Aid Society webpage
<http://www.vtcas.org/>

Sponsored by Kids-A-Part
A Program of Vermont Children's Aid Society
in collaboration with

The Annie E. Casey Foundation*
Casey Family Services*
Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services
Child Development Division, Department for Children and Families*
Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Partnership, UVM/DCF*
Vermont Department of Corrections
Family Services Division, Department for Children and Families*
Incarcerated Women's Initiative (IWI), Agency of Human Services
Kidsafe Collaboration
Lund Family Center
Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont*
Region I Office on Women's Health, US Department of Health and Human Services*
Sills Family Foundation*
State of Vermont, Office of Court Administrators*
Vermont Foster/Adoptive Family Association
Vermont Kin As Parents

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Conference-Chairs

Tara Graham
Kids-A-Part, Vermont Children's Aid Society

Jill Evans
AHS Incarcerated Women's Initiative

with thanks to the following members of the planning committee

Jan Appel
Family Services Division, Department for Children and Families

Mike Bellizzi
Department of Corrections

Desireah Bennett
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont

Ellie Breitmaier
Family Services Division, Department for Children and Families

Gale Burford
Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Partnership,
UVM/DCF

Sherry Burnette
Agency of Human Services

Kim Coe
Lund Family Center
Vermont Foster/Adoptive Family Association

Karen L. Crowley
Vermont Department of Health Alcohol & Drug Abuse Programs

Sheila Duranleau
Family Services Division, Department for Children and Families

Lynn Granger
Vermont Kin as Parents

Michaela Hammond
Department of Corrections

Danielle Howes
Child Development Division, Department for Children and Families

Diane Robie
Conference Coordinator

Betsey Shuey
Child Development Division, Department of Children and Families

Renee Silver
Child Welfare Training Partnership, UVM/DCF

Henekis Stoddard
Umbrella, Inc.

Amy Torchia
Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Andrea Van Liew
Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services